

What is claimed is:

1) An aqueous silica dispersion comprising:

- a) from 1 to 30 weight % silica particles having a surface, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion;
- b) from 0.01 to 10 weight % reacted aminosilane compound attached to said surface of said silica particles, based on weight of said silica particles;
- c) from 5 to 25 weight % anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles; and
- d) an aqueous medium;

wherein said silica particles are dispersed in said aqueous medium.

2) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 comprising, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion,

from 1 to 10 weight % said silica particles; and  
from 1 to 25 weight % polymer particles.

3) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.

4) A process for preparing an aqueous silica dispersion comprising silica particles dispersed in an aqueous medium, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing said aqueous medium;
- b) admixing anionic polymeric dispersing agent and aminosilane compound into said aqueous medium;
- c) admixing said silica particles into said aqueous medium containing said anionic polymeric dispersing agent and said aminosilane compound; and
- d) reacting or allowing to react said aminosilane compound with said silica particles to provide said aqueous silica dispersion.

5) The process according to claim 4 wherein said aqueous silica dispersion comprises:

- a) from 1 to 30 weight % said silica particles, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion;
- b) from 0.01 to 10 weight % said aminosilane compound, based on weight of said silica particles; and
- c) from 5 to 25 weight % said anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles.

6) The process according to claim 4 further comprising the step of:  
admixing polymer particles into said aqueous medium.

7) The process according to claim 4 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.

8) A method for treating tanned leather, comprising the steps of:  
a) contacting said tanned leather with an aqueous silica dispersion comprising:

- i) silica particles having a surface,
- ii) from 0.01 to 10 weight % reacted aminosilane compound attached to said surface of said silica particles, based on weight of said silica particles,
- iii) from 5 to 25 weight % anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles,
- iv) polymer particles, and
- v) an aqueous medium,  
wherein said silica particles and said polymer particles are dispersed in said aqueous medium; and

  
b) drying or allowing to dry said aqueous silica dispersion that is contacted with said tanned leather.

9) The method according to claim 8 wherein said polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of polyurethane polymer particles, acrylic polymer particles, and mixtures thereof.

10) The method according to claim 8 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.